GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1943
ANSWERED ON:26.03.2012
ECHS FACILITIES TO EX-SERVICEMEN
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) polyclinics in the country at present and details of the beneficiaries;

(b) whether the Government proposes to set up such new clinics in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to strengthen the ECHS services;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take measures to empanel the clinics of the State Governments and also the private clinics in order to strengthen the ECHS network and improve the health services for the Ex-servicemen residing in various States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU)

(a) to (c): The Government has sanctioned 426 Polyclinics for Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS). 227 Polyclinics were sanctioned in the year 2002, all of which are functional. Due to increasing ESM population an additional 199 Polyclinics including 17 Mobile Clinics were sanctioned in October 2010, out of which 43 Polyclinics are operational, thus at present 270 Polyclinics are functioning. In addition the Government has sanctioned 15 new Regional Centers to strengthen the ECHS Services, out of which 6 Regional Centers are already functional. As on 1st March, 2012, there are 39,46,898 beneficiaries which include 12,34,069 ex- servicemen and 27,12,829 dependents.

(d) & (e): The ECHS beneficiaries can avail treatment at state Government hospitals/Clinics. The cost of treatment at Government hospitals is reimbursed at the approved rates and 80% advance of the estimated cost of the treatment at Government hospitals/Clinics is admissible to the ECHS beneficiaries.

At present 1383 Private hospitals/Dental Clinics/Diagnostics Centers and Eye clinics throughout the country are empanelled with ECHS, where the ECHS beneficiaries can avail cashless treatment. In emergency cases, reimbursement is made at approved rates, even for treatment in non-empanelled hospitals.